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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/625,283	07/23/2003	Clay B. McElwee	128826 SAR-61	7899
34132	7590	05/27/2004		
COZEN O'CONNOR, P.C.			EXAMINER	
1900 MARKET STREET			ASINOVSKY, OLGA	
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-3508			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1711	

DATE MAILED: 05/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/625,283	MCELWEE, CLAY B.
	Examiner Olga Asinovsky	Art Unit 1711

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 23 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Groepper U.S. Patent 4,334,043.

The claimed invention is a method of producing a composition comprising combining a solid elastomer, an organic peroxide initiator, and a metal carboxyl ate, and curing the composition under open surface molding condition so as to produce a molded vulcalized elastomer composition with low tack to tack⁰free surface.

0, A.

Groepper discloses a crosslinkable polymers and co-polymers produced by the pre-treatment of crosslinkable polymer or co-polymer comprising: elastomer(s), an organic peroxide initiator, and organo-metallic compound, column 2, lines 3-63. The ingredients are combining prior to the crosslinking process. The crosslinking=curing or vulcanizing step is performed at 230 C in an oven with forced air heating, column 4, line 45. The obtained cured product has tack-free surfaces, even in the presence of oxygen, column 2, lines 49-50. The co-agents such as trimethylolpropane trimethacrylate, column 4, line 21, is readable in applicant' claimed cross-linking agent for the present claims 8 and

16. The curing process condition in an oven with hot air heating is equivalent to the "open surface molding condition" for the present claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Groepper U.S. Patent 4,334,043.

Groepper has been discussed above.

The difference between the present claims and Groepper's invention is the requirement in the present claims that curing the composition is under open surface curing process.

Groepper discloses in the working example 1 in an oven with forced air heating, column 4, line 45. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to consider that the process condition "in an oven with forced air heating at 230 C" (Groepper, column 4, line 45) is equivalent to the open surface molding conditions for the present claims since the process condition is the same=in the presence of oxygen, Groepper, column 2, line

50. The motivation is that it is within the skill of one in the art to consider that a process condition in oven with hot air heating in Groepper's invention is analogous to the open surface molding conditions since oxygen is present during the curing process condition.

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There are no applicant's references with form 1449.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olga Asinovsky whose telephone number is 571-272-1066. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Olga Asinovsky
Examiner
Art Unit 1711

O.A.
May 20, 2004

James J. Seidleck
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700